



NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future

Greening the Supply Chain for the Biomedical Research Enterprise:

Environmentally Preferable Procurement (EPP) Requirements and Guidelines for Purchasers of Scientific Supplies, Equipment and Services

Our biomedical research increasingly confirms the significance of environmental factors on human health. ***As the Environment Gets Healthier, So Do We.***

NIH has set goals for improving its environmental performance. To meet these goals sustainability must be a consideration in everything we use in our research mission.

If you are an NIH employee, contractor, state or local agency, or grantee **ordering** or **leasing scientific equipment, supplies, services** or **facilities** with federal funds **then** –

Environmentally Preferable Procurement Requirements Apply

EPP is now the law. Compliance also minimizes the environmental footprint of NIH's mission and affirms our commitment to public health – for this and subsequent generations.

Environmentally preferred products and services help us keep these commitments by using **less energy, water and toxic materials**; requiring **less transportation**; and generating **less pollution** over their entire life cycle - from manufacturing, in use and to final disposal.

Additional attributes of sustainable products are listed on the reverse side.

For further information:

DHHS Requirements for EPP and training of procurement officials are found in the May 2007 version of the *Affirmative Procurement Plan for Purchasing Environmentally Preferable Products and Services* <http://intranet.hhs.gov/environmental/documents/APPMay2007.doc>

Comprehensive EPP Information Resources are found on the *FedCenter Buying Green* website <http://www.fedcenter.gov/>

Specific Guidance on EPP for lab ware and supplies used in scientific and medical applications, including brand lists; contract language and specifications are available and frequently updated on the *U.S. EPA Database of Environmental Information for Products and Services* <http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/epstand2.nsf>

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Examples of EPP Attributes of Scientific Products and Services

 Energy Conservation	ENERGY STAR® compliant EPEAT™ registered (computers) Accessories use renewable energy	Reduces energy consumption by 30% by 2015 relative to 2003 baseline use
Environmentally Sensitive Materials Reduced or Eliminated	Arsenic Cadmium Ethidium bromide Ethylene glycol Ethylene oxide Formaldehyde Halogenated solvents Hexavalent chromium Lead	Mercury (No added mercury or mercury contaminants) Ozone Depleting Substances Phenolic compounds Phthalates Long lived bioaccumulative radionuclides
Materials Selection	New materials from renewable resources Maximum use of post-consumer recycled and biobased materials Reduce or eliminate use of halogenated plastics – chlorine and fluorine containing resins No use of short chain chlorinated paraffin (SCCP) flame retardants and plasticizers, and flame retardants classified under European Council Directive 67/548/EEC	
Packaging	Reduced or eliminated Packaging take-back Reusable	Recyclable Biobased materials Elimination of added toxics
Product Longevity/Life Cycle Extension	Availability of long term warranty or service agreement Upgradeable with common tools Modular design Availability of replacement parts	
Sustainable Facilities	LEED® or Green Globe™ certified design and construction	
Transportation	Locally produced products Transportation vehicles fuel efficient, use alternative fuels, low emissions	
Water Conservation	Minimizes water use Minimizes pollutants and nutrients (phosphates and nitrogen containing chemicals) in wastewater generated from use of product	
End of Product Life Design	Identification of materials with special handling needs Elimination of paints, coatings, adhesives that are not compatible with recycling or reuse Easy disassembly of external enclosures of equipment Marking of plastic components Reduced number of plastic resin types and components Molded/glued metal eliminated or removable Maximum content of reusable/recyclable materials	
End of Product Life Management	Provision of product take-back service Environmental auditing of recycling service companies	
Company Environmental Performance	Certified environmental management system (EMS) Corporate report based on EPA Performance Track or GRI	

